

PROCEEDINGS
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NOTES ON LITTLE-KNOWN NEW MEXICAN MAMMALS
AND SPECIES APPARENTLY NOT RECORDED
FROM THE TERRITORY.

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The present paper is intended to record certain species of mammals not previously known to occur within New Mexico and to give such notes on their habits as may be of interest. The notes are taken from a field diary made between the years 1897 and 1902. Six species and two genera new to the territory are given. *Ovis mexicanus* has not been previously recorded from the United States. The known range of several species has been greatly extended.

***Ovis mexicanus* Merriam.**

The skins and skulls of a young ram, and old ewe, and a very young lamb, recently came into the author's possession. They were killed in March, 1901, on the Gaudalupe Mountains, near the boundary line between New Mexico and Texas, by Mr. W. E. Schreffler. He informs me that a small band live on this range of mountains, and that they pass up and down the range from New Mexico to Texas. Comparison of these specimens with several specimens of the Mexican big-horn from near the type locality leaves no doubt that the Mexican sheep is found in certain favorable localities in Texas and Southern New Mexico.

Castor canadensis frondator Mearns.

In September of 1898, I located a large colony of beavers about six miles below Ruidoso Post Office, on the Ruidoso Creek, Lincoln County, New Mexico. After a period of probation spent in learning their habits and how to trap them, I succeeded in securing a series of eleven specimens, representing all ages. This species lives here in the creek bank, and little attempt was made to deepen the stream by damming it. I found old cuttings up the stream to an altitude of about 8,000 feet. At the time I visited the colony they were living among the Mexican ranches at about 6,000 feet elevation. At that season (September to November) they were feeding on corn alone, although a few scarred willows were to be seen along the bank. The Mexicans had planted their corn right down to the water's edge to utilize all the available ground in the narrow valley. The beavers were cutting and dragging the corn to the stream, then floating it to their dens. In places there was a wagon load of stalks in the water. Near the dens they had cleaned the ground for a hundred feet on either side and made great trails in dragging stalks to the stream. The Mexicans could not trap them, and as they never appeared in the day time and seldom in the twilight, very few were killed.

Felis hernandesii (Gray).

Mr. Nat. Straw, hunter and trapper, informed me that he trapped a jaguar near Grafton, on Taylor Creek, Socorro County, New Mexico, in May, 1900. He gave its length as 8 feet and 3 inches (2439 mm.) I saw the skin made up into a rug. I have heard of several others being seen or killed. It is probable that they find their way into the Mogollon Mountains by ascending the Gila River.

Conepatus sp. inc.

On August 12, 1901, I trapped an immature individual of this genus in the Domingo Baca canyon on the west side of the Sandia Mountains, 18 miles east of Albuquerque, New Mexico. The trap was baited with carrion and set at the base of a large pine (*Pinus ponderosa*). The altitude was about 7,000 feet. I trapped for several weeks in the same locality but could secure no further specimens. The one secured is not over half grown and does not show specific characters. I can find no record of specimens from New Mexico nor from any point as far north. The species does not appear to be abundant. It seems very strange to find this young individual several hundred miles north of the known range of the genus, and at a high altitude at that. The specimen is now in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Spermophilus interpres (Merriam).

On January 5th, 1898, I secured three specimens apparently referable to this species at the base of the Organ Mountains, near the San Augustine Pass. That they were mating was evident by their actions and the enlarged sexual organs in both sexes. They were on the east side of the range, among the rocks in a sunny canyon in the foothills. They do not hibernate at all or perhaps only during occasional storms. Efforts to trace their range further north in the San Andreas range were unsuccessful, nor have I found the species in any of the other ranges in southern New Mexico. There is a small gap between the Organ Mountains and the Mt. Franklin group (the type locality). These specimens extend the known range about fifty miles northward. The following measurements were taken in the flesh:

Male.—Length, 223; tail, 65; hind foot, 38 mm.

Male.—Length, 240; tail, 86; hind foot, 37 mm.

Female.—Length, 205; tail, 72; hind foot, 36 mm.

Putorius frenatus neomexicanus Barber and Cockerell.

A Mexican brought me a nearly typical specimen of this weasel at Albuquerque, New Mexico, on December 6, 1900. It was a fine male and measured as follows: Total length, 444; tail vertebræ, 176; hind foot, 46 mm. This extends the known range of the species about 200 miles north in the Rio Grande valley and is, so far as I know, the sixth specimen to be taken. It is now in the Biological Survey Collection at Washington, D. C.

Putorius arizonensis Mearns.

Professor G. E. Coghill shot three weasles on the Pecos Forest Reserve above Willis, New Mexico, on July 23d, 1898. The late F. J. Birtwell secured possession of them and I was permitted to examine them. They answer Dr. Mearns' description of the Arizona weasel and are apparently that species. The only measurements available are those of a female as follows: Total length, 332; tail vertebræ, 126; hind foot, 38 mm. These seem to be the first specimens of this species taken in New Mexico. Two of these specimen are now in the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge, and the third is in the A. & M. College collection at Mesilla Park, New Mexico.